

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated or purified peptide, said peptide having cell death-inhibitory activity ~~comprising the amino acid sequence~~ and consisting of 103 amino acid residues at the C-terminal of selenoprotein P, and said peptide corresponding to the bands at 3 to 4 kDa, 7 to 9 kDa and 10 to 12 kDa in SDS-PAGE under reductive conditions.

2. (Previously Presented) The isolated or purified peptide of claim 1, having the amino acid sequence of the formula (I):

Lys Arg Cys Ile Asn Gln Leu Leu Cys Lys Leu Pro Thr Asp Ser Glu Leu
Ala Pro Arg Ser Xaa Cys Cys His Cys Arg His Leu (SEQ ID NO:1)

and/or the formula (II):

Thr Gly Ser Ala Ile Thr Xaa Gln Cys Lys Glu Asn Leu Pro Ser Leu Cys
Ser Xaa Gln Gly Leu Arg Ala Glu Glu Asn Ile (SEQ ID NO:2)

wherein Xaa is selenocysteine.

3. (Previously Presented) The isolated or purified peptide of claim 1 or 2 wherein said peptide is derived from plasma proteins.

4. (Previously Presented) The isolated or purified peptide of claim 1, wherein said peptide (a) is recovered in fractions of molecular weight 10 kDa to 30 kDa by molecular size fractionation with membrane; (b) has structures showing isoelectric points at between pH 7 and pH 8 and at pH 8 or more in blood as a result of testing of binding to ion exchange resin; (c) shows two bands at molecular weight 13 to 14 kDa and two bands at 16 to 17 kDa, the latter being a glycosylated form of the former, in non-reductive SDS-PAGE; and (d) has a band pattern of 3 to 4 kDa, 7 to 9 kDa and 10 to 12 kDa in SDS-PAGE under reductive condition in addition to the bands (c).

5-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) An additive for cell culture comprising as an active ingredient the isolated or purified peptide of claim 1.

11-16. (Cancelled)

17. (New) A composition, comprising
as an active ingredient the isolated or purified peptide of claim 1; and a suitable adjuvant or solution.